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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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JUL 11 1983

June 28, 1983

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Re: Preliminary Environmental Review
Broadwater County Motor Vehicle
Graveyard

Board of County Commissioners, Broadwater Co. Courthouse, Townsend, MT
Jeanie Knight, County Sanitarian, Box 622, Boulder, MT
Clint Holland, Mayor, City of Townsend, P.O. Box S, Townsend, MT
Bureau of Land Management, 106 N. Parkmont, Butte, MT
Betty Riley, Secretary, County Planning Board, Courthouse, Townsend, MT
Keith Kirscher, President, Townsend Jaycees, Rte. 1, Box 66, Townsend, MT
Manager, Continental Lime Company West of Townsend, Townsend, MT
Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Bldg., Rm. 406, Helena, MT
Tom Ellerhoff, Environmental Sciences Division, DHES, Helena, MT
Harold Chamber, State Library, Capitol Complex, Helena, MT

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Pursuant to the Administrative Rules of Montana, 16.2.604,
the following Preliminary Environmental Review has been prepared by the
Department of Health and Environmental Sciences concerning Broadwater
County motor vehicle graveyard.

The purpose of the Preliminary Environmental Review is to inform
all interested governmental agencies, public groups or individuals of
the proposed action and to determine whether or not the action may have
a significant effect on the human environment. This Preliminary
Environmental Review will be circulated for a period of fifteen (15)
days at which time a decision will be made as to our future action.

If you care to comment on this proposed action, please do so within
the allotted time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Larry D. Mitchell".

LARRY D. MITCHELL
Solid Waste Management Bureau
Environmental Sciences Division

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
Cogswell Building, Helena, Montana 59620
(406) 449-2821

PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Division/Bureau Environmental Sciences Division/Solid Waste Management Bureau

Project or Application Broadwater County Motor Vehicle Graveyard

Description of Project Establishing and licensing a new motor vehicle graveyard
owned and operated by the Broadwater county junk vehicle program through
its county commissioners. (See attached map)

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

	Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments on Attached Pages
1. Terrestrial & aquatic life and habitats				X		
2. Water quality, quantity and distribution				X		
3. Geology & soil quality, stability and moisture			X			X
4. Vegetation cover, quant- ity and quality				X		
5. Aesthetics		X				X
6. Air quality				X		
7. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
8. Demands on environmen- tal resources of land, water, air & energy				X		
9. Historical and archaeo- logical sites					X	

POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

	Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments on Attached Pages
1. Social structures and mores				X		
2. Cultural uniqueness and diversity				X		
3. Local and state tax base & tax revenue				X		
4. Agricultural or industrial production				X		
5. Human health				X		
6. Quantity and distribution of community and personal income				X		
7. Access to and quality of recreational and wilderness activities				X		
8. Quantity and distribution of employment				X		
9. Distribution and density of population and housing				X		
10. Demands for government services			X			X
11. Industrial & commercial activity				X		
12. Demands for energy				X		
13. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals				X		X
14. Transportation networks & traffic flows				X		

Other groups or agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction _____

Individuals or groups contributing to this PER. Broadwater County Commissioners

Recommendation concerning preparation of EIS Not necessary

PER Prepared by: LARRY MITCHELL

Date: June 28, 1983

DHES/ESD-2.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Section 75-10-521 MCA 1979 of the state Motor Vehicle Recycling and Disposal law requires each county jurisdiction to establish and operate a free county motor vehicle graveyard. The purpose of the facility is to provide a location for the storage and recycling of unwanted junked vehicles. It must be screened from public view, licensed for operation and meet all other legal requirements in effect for private wrecking yards except that there is no annual fee for the license.

The county commissioners have proposed the establishment and construction of a new county vehicle graveyard approximately 2 acres in size on Bureau of Land Management property south of the Continental Lime Plant road near the Broadwater county landfill. The present vehicle graveyard is just north of the road in the same area. The property is under lease from the BLM. The new site is necessary in order to control access to the vehicles and screen the yard from public view following the relocation of the Lime Plant road through a portion of the old facility. Vehicles in the existing facility will be crushed and removed this summer and operation of the new location will begin following that project.

All motor vehicle wrecking facilities and county motor vehicle graveyards are required to be screened from public view such that no junk vehicles are visible from a point six feet above the center of any public roadway. The Lime Plant road paralleling the north boundary and Indian Creek road to the south are both public roads. The facility is required to be screened from view points along these roadways.

The screening proposal consists of two earthen berms or dikes along the north and east perimeters of the site. Dirt will be removed from the center of the site, lowering the elevation of the yard, and placed in dikes along the outside edges forming a screen. If properly constructed and vegetated to control erosion and settling, this should sufficiently screen the yard from most of the Lime Plant road. A screen of some sort along the west perimeter is necessary to complete the screening of the site from the upper stretch of the Lime Plant road. The county has not proposed any shielding for this side of the yard.

The Lime Plant road deadends at the company gates approximately .3 mile west of the site. Beyond that point the road is not open to public travel. For a portion of this .3 mile section of road the county graveyard will technically not be screened from public view as required. This section of road should be used only by employees or agents of and visitors to Continental Lime, Inc. Given the additional cost to the county of screening the west side and the relatively small gain in aesthetic improvement provided for a short, low volume traffic area, the department may be willing to forego total compliance with the screening requirements. However, the right to require additional screening for the west side will be reserved should it become necessary due to complaints or to further junk vehicle program goals.

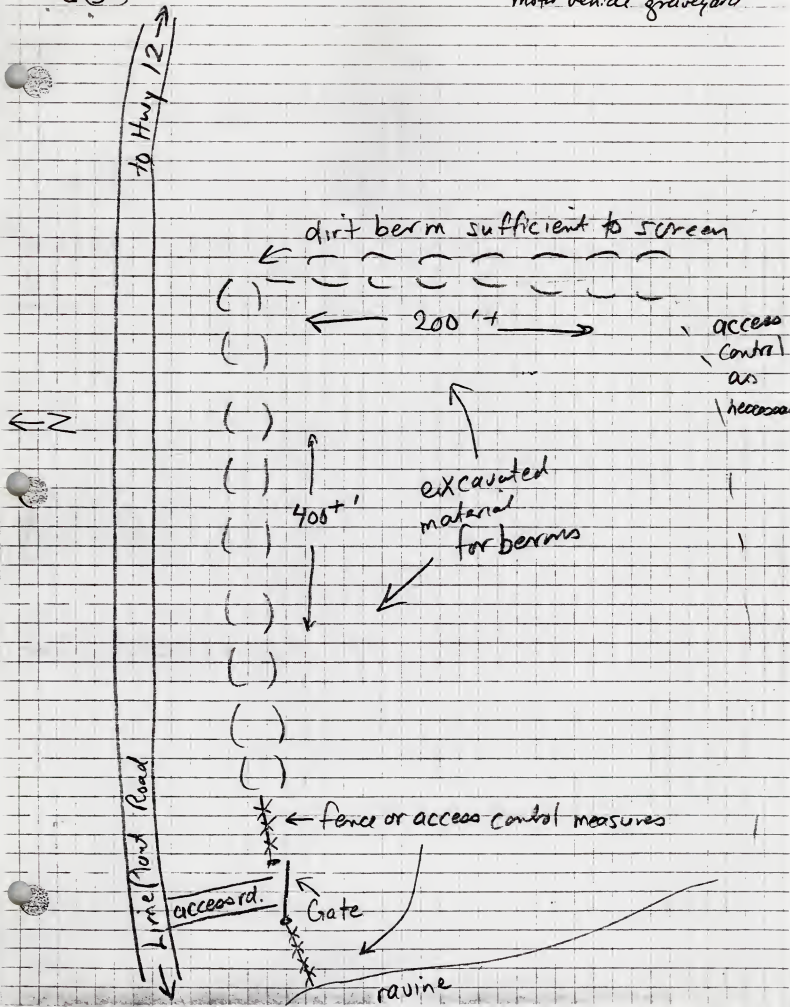
Additionally, the site will be visible from the Indian Creek road to the south for a forty foot section of that road as it corners on a ridge near the site before dropping to the southwest into Indian Creek. An active placer mining operation is still relocating material near the ridge and may impact the final topographic grade of this area. No shielding is proposed along the south perimeter of the yard. However, in this case, depending on the post-mining final grade, it would be easier to screen the roadway from the yard than to screen the yard from the road. A gravel pile near the road corner effectively screens a portion of the site now. Extending the gravel another forty feet or so would complete the job.

The site will be inspected periodically for compliance with county vehicle graveyard operational requirements including screening, records, access controls, debris cleanup and salvaging. Otherwise, demands for governmental services should be limited only to those necessary by statute for proper program operation.

Local government land use or zoning ordinances do not prohibit the establishment of a motor vehicle graveyard at this location according to a local certification on the application. Lower Indian Creek is agricultural grazing with some trend towards residential land use. Upper Indian Creek in this area is agricultural/industrial in land use. Placer mining, Continental Lime, Inc., and the Broadwater County refuse disposal district landfill are current adjacent land uses.

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Broadwater County
motor vehicle graveyard



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